

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (New): A work management system having a work management apparatus for transmitting and receiving information, over a network, between a plurality of user terminals, said work management apparatus comprising:

a file memory configured to store an employee information file retaining employee information on employees, and work management file retaining management information for setting work contents of said employees;

designating means for designating a number of employees necessary for each of time zones;

a temporary shift table generation unit configured to generate a temporary shift table in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set, based on the employee information and the work management information, in response to the number of employees designated by said designating means; and

a temporary shift table sending unit configured to send the temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit to each user terminal.

Claim 34 (New): A work management system having a work management apparatus for transmitting and receiving information, over a network, between a plurality of user terminals, said work management apparatus comprising:

a temporary shift table generation unit configured to generate a temporary shift table in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set;

a temporary shift table sending unit configured to send the temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit to each user terminal;

a settled shift table generation unit configured to collect response information sent from each user terminal in response to the temporary shift table sent by said temporary shift table sending unit, and in response to an input of acceptance of the temporary shift table, to generate a settled shift table in which the employees are assigned based on the response information; and

a settled shift table sending unit configured to send the settled shift table generated by said settled shift table generation unit to each corresponding user terminal.

Claim 35 (New): A work management system having a work management apparatus for transmitting and receiving information, over a network, between a plurality of user terminals, said work management apparatus comprising:

a settled shift table sending unit configured to distribute a settled shift table in which work schedules of employees are settled to corresponding user terminals;

a recruiting information generation unit configured to, in a case in which cancellation information requesting cancellation of the work schedule is sent from a user terminal to which the settled shift table has been sent, generate additional recruiting information for recruiting a new employee;

a recruiting information sending unit configured to send the additional recruiting information generated by said recruiting information generation unit to the user terminals of employees who can apply for the cancelled schedule; and

an application information reception unit configured to receive application information sent from arbitrary user terminals in response to the additional recruiting information sent by said recruiting information sending unit.

Claim 36 (New): A work management system having a work management apparatus for transmitting and receiving information, over a network, between a plurality of user terminals, said work management apparatus comprising:

a recruiting information generation unit configured to, in a case in which staff vacancies arise amounting to a predetermined number of employees in a settled shift table in which work schedules of employees are settled, set a number of employees to be recruited and an additional recruiting period to generate additional recruiting information for recruiting new employees;

a recruiting information sending unit configured to send the additional recruiting information generated by said recruiting information generation unit to the user terminals of employees who can apply to fill the vacancies;

an application information reception unit configured to receive application information sent from arbitrary user terminals in response to the additional recruiting information sent by said recruiting information sending unit; and

a recruiting processing unit configured to, in a case in which a number of applicants based on the application information received by said application information reception unit does not reach the number of employees to be recruited, send a notification information to a person in charge, and to execute an urgent-shift making routine.

Claim 37 (New): The work management system according to claim 36,
wherein in a case in which the number of applicants based on the application information received by said application information reception unit exceeds the number of employees to be recruited, said recruiting processing unit selects as many employees as required, sends information notifying work schedules to the user terminals of the selected

employees, and sends information notifying cancellation to the user terminals of the non-selected employees.

Claim 38 (New): A work management apparatus for generating a shift table indicating times in which employees are scheduled to work, comprising:

a file memory configured to store an employee information file retaining employee information on employees, and work management file retaining management information for setting work contents of said employees;

a temporary shift table generation unit configured to generate a temporary shift table in which scheduled work times of employees are temporarily set, based on the employee information and the management information;

a temporary shift table sending unit configured to send the temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit to a plurality of user terminals over a network;

a response information reception unit configured to receive, over the network, response information sent from said plurality of user terminals in response to the temporary shift table sent by said temporary shift table sending unit;

a settled shift table generation unit configured to generate a settled shift table in which schedule work times of employees are settled based on the response information received by said response information reception unit; and

a settled shift table sending unit configured to send the settled shift table generated by said settled shift table generation unit to said plurality of user terminals over the network.

Claim 39 (New): The work management apparatus according to claim 38, wherein:

in a case in which there is a shortage of employees available when generating a temporary shift table, said temporary shift table generation unit generates a temporary shift table to which recruiting information for recruiting a required number of employees to fill the shortage is added; and

in a case in which the response information is information representing application for the recruiting information added to the temporary shift table, said settled shift table generation unit generates a settled shift table in which the applying employees are assigned as employees to fill the shortage.

Claim 40 (New): The work management apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:

a cancellation information reception unit configured to, in a case in which cancellation information requesting cancellation of a work schedule is sent from an arbitrary user terminal among user terminals to which said settled shift table sending unit has sent the settled shift table, receive the cancellation information over the network;

a recruiting information generation unit configured to, in a case in which said cancellation information reception unit receives the cancellation information, generate recruiting information for recruiting a new employee in response to the received cancellation information;

a recruiting information sending unit configured to send the recruiting information generated by said recruiting information generation unit to the user terminals of employees who can apply for the canceled work schedule over the network; and

an application information reception unit configured to receive, over the network, application information sent from an arbitrary user terminal in response to the recruiting information sent by said recruiting information sending unit,

wherein:

said settled shift table generation unit updates the settled shift table in accordance with the application information received by said application information reception unit; and

said settled shift table sending unit sends the settled shift table updated by said settled shift table generation unit to the user terminal having sent the application information.

Claim 41 (New): The work management apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:

a display unit configured to display a setting screen from which the employee information and the management information are entered; and

an input unit configured to acquire information input from the setting screen displayed on said display unit;

wherein said file memory stores the employee information in the employee information file and the management information in the work management file.

Claim 42 (New): A work management method for a work management apparatus for storing employee information on employees and work management information for setting work contents of the employees and transmitting and receiving information over a network, between a plurality of user terminals, said method comprising:

a temporary shift table generating step of generating a temporary shift table in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set based on the employee information and the management information;

a temporary shift table sending step of sending the temporary shift table generated in said temporary shift table generating step to each user terminal over the network;

a response information receiving step of receiving, over the network, response information sent from each user terminal in response to the temporary shift table sent in said temporary shift table sending step;

a settled shift table generating step of generating a settled shift table in which work schedule of employees are settled, in accordance with the response information received in said response information receiving step; and

a settled shift table sending step of sending the settled shift table generated in said settled shift table generating step to each user terminal over the network.

Claim 43 (New): The work management method according to claim 42, wherein:

in a case in which there is a shortage of employees available in a case in which a temporary shift table is to be generated, a temporary shift table to which recruiting information for recruiting a required number of employees to fill the shortage is added is generated in said temporary shift table generating step; and

in a case in which the response information is information representing application for the recruiting information added to the temporary shift table, a settled shift table in which the applying employees are assigned as employees to fill the shortage is generated in said settled shift table generating step.

Claim 44 (New): The work management method according to claim 42, further comprising:

a cancellation information receiving step of, in a case in which cancellation information requesting cancellation of a work schedule is sent from an arbitrary user terminal

among user terminals to which the settled shift table has been sent in said settled shift table sending step, receiving the cancellation information over the network;

a recruiting information generating step of, in a case in which cancellation information is received in said cancellation information receiving step, generating recruiting information for recruiting a new employee in response to the received cancellation information;

a recruiting information sending step of sending the recruiting information generated in said recruiting information generating step to the user terminals of employees who can apply for the canceled work schedule; and

an application information receiving step of receiving, over the network, application information sent from an arbitrary user terminal in response to the recruiting information sent in said recruiting information sending step,

wherein:

in said settled shift table generating step, the settled shift table is updated in accordance with the application information received in said application information receiving step, and

in said settled shift table sending step, the settled shift table updated in said settled shift table generating step is sent to the user terminal having sent the application information.

Claim 45 (New): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for controlling a computer to function as:

a file memory configured to store an employee information file retaining employee information on employees, and work management file retaining management information for setting work contents of said employees;

a temporary shift table generation unit configured to generate a temporary shift table in which scheduled work times of employees are temporarily set based on the employee information and the management information;

a temporary shift table sending unit configured to send the temporary shift table generated by said temporary shift table generation unit to a plurality of user terminals over a network;

a response information reception unit configured to receive, over the network, response information sent from the plurality of user terminals in response to the temporary shift table sent by said temporary shift table sending unit;

a settled shift table generation unit configured to generate a settled shift table in which scheduled work times of employees are settled, in accordance with the response information received by said response information reception unit; and

a settled shift table sending unit configured to send the settled shift table generated by said settled shift table generation unit to the plurality of user terminals over the network.